

REMARKSI. Introduction.

Claims 1-13 are pending and stand rejected. The Office Action states that no priority document was attached to the transmittal letter mailed December 3, 2001. Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, first and second paragraphs.

II. The Priority Claim.

The Applicants respectfully request that priority be granted. Another certified copy of the priority document was mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office on November 25, 2003.

III. The 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections.

The Office Action states that the 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) rejections have been mooted.

IV. The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejections.

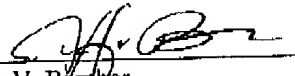
Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to correct the same, and eliminate the basis for the Section 112 rejections. Applicants, however, expressly do not admit that the basis for the rejections was proper.

V. Summary.

Another certified copy of the priority document has been sent to the Patent and Trademark Office. The 35 U.S.C. Section 112 rejections have been addressed. In view of the foregoing, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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